

UNIVERSE SYMPHONY - PIANO WORKS BY ED STARINK

Since I was a kid I was fascinated by the universe around us. At the age of eight I started dreaming how it would be to create music in space, making your own vision of the things you see in the night sky, or in your fantasy. One could say that the universe triggered me to start a life in music. So the idea of creating my own Symphony of the Universe has always been in my mind. During a period of different musical paths, the need to find the time to create this piece, grew stronger and started influencing my daily life. Finally in France I found the time to start this project, but... where to start? The universe has myriads of places to compose about. Slowly the idea took shape to start with the constellations. What are the names of the stars that visualise these patterns, what are their colours and characteristics, what are the most famous objects and their characteristics? Since there are 88 Constellations, I started with the Asterisms because there are “only” thirty of those. An asterism is a distinctive pattern of stars or a distinctive group of stars in the sky.

Now that the main subject was defined, I had to find a way to translate these patterns into something that I baptised my own Alphabet.

Alphabet

Ed Starink

Universe

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T

U V W X Y Z ' , - . / ü * ° + |

-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 & () -0 -2 -3 -4 -5 -6 -7 I V X

[] : = ? < > %

The 30 asterisms I call the *Suites* of my Universe Symphony.

In these Suites, the stars that visualise the asterisms represent the *Main-Themes*.

The objects nearby in the asterisms are the *Themes*.

The different object-types in all the asterisms are the *Sub-Themes*.

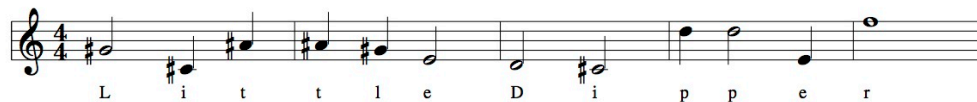
The different names for the stars and the objects are the *Motives*.

This is an example:

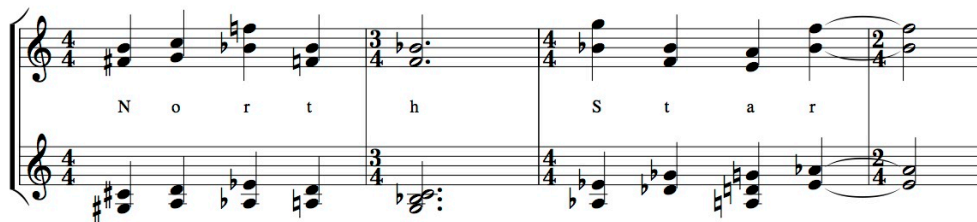
THE STAR POLARIS



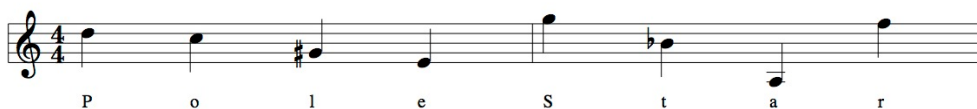
POLARIS LIES IN THE ASTERISM LITTLE DIPPER



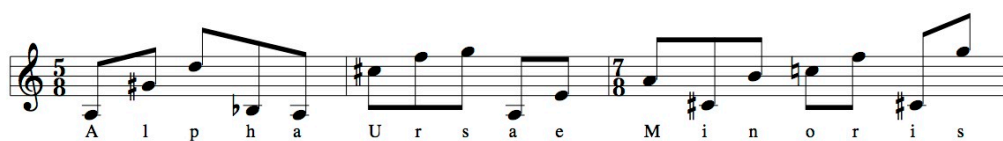
POLARIS IS ALSO CALLED THE NORTH STAR



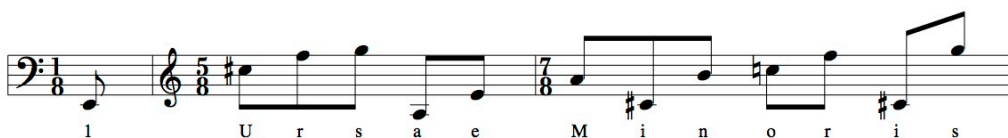
ANOTHER NAME IS THE POLE STAR



THE POSITION FROM POLARIS IN LITTLE DIPPER BY GREEK NAME



THE POSITION FROM POLARIS IN LITTLE DIPPER BY NUMBER



Stars and objects are catalogued in the Sky;
 Two catalogues, often used, are Hip and Tyc.
 (The Hipparcos and Tycho Catalogues)

THE HIP CATALOGUE NAME FOR POLARIS IS HIP 1 1767

Musical score for the Hip catalogue name. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains notes for 'H', 'i', and 'P', followed by a long sustained chord. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a 4/4 time signature, containing a sequence of notes with fingerings: 1 1 7 6 7 1 1 7 6 7.

THE TYC CATALOGUE NAME FOR POLARIS IS TYC 4628-237-1

Musical score for the Tycho catalogue name. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature, with notes for 'TYC' and 'TYC-T1'. The second system has a bass clef with a 4/4 time signature, with notes for 'TYC-T1' and 'TYC-T2'. The third system has a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature, with notes for 'TYC-T2'. Fingerings like '3', '4 6 2 8', and '2 3 7' are indicated. A '1' is written below the final bass clef staff.

These examples give a basic idea how main-themes, themes, sub-themes and motives are related to each other.

For example, all the abbreviations (such as Hip and Tyc) are motives from the different catalogues reflecting their themes in all the Asterisms.

Musical notation for the 'Hip' motif, consisting of a treble clef, a 3/8 time signature, and the notes Bb, C, D, E, F#.

and

Musical notation for the 'Tyc' motif, consisting of a treble clef, a 3/8 time signature, and the notes Bb, C, D, E, F.

two of the many leitmotifs in Universe.

During the writing process I encountered a group of objects, called Arp Peculiar Galaxies.

It shows how galaxies behave when they encounter.

This catalogue of 338 galaxies inspired to a separate suite.

These galaxies have also been integrated in the 30 Asterisms.

The Universe Piano Works is the first part released of the Universe Symphony.

In the Little Dipper are two famous stars; Kochab and Pherkad.
They are called the “Guardians of the Pole”.

During the process of creating Universe I had my personal Star(ink) Guardians;
Nicolette and Marijke, much love and thanks for guiding me in many ways.
I also want to thank my friend Felix Visser, for kicking me at the right moment and
making the Piano Works a fact.

The onset of making and publishing Universe is to become an inspirational source for new
creations by anyone who is involved in making and playing music.

Enjoy the music.

